

REMARKS

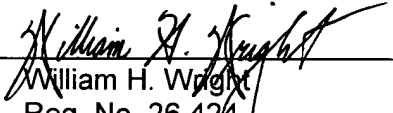
Applicant, through his attorney, gratefully acknowledges the courtesy of the personal interview that was extended by Patent Examiner Thach H. Bui on December 14, 2004.

During the course of that interview, the current amendment to claim 1 was presented for the purposes of discussion and comparison with the references of record.

Given the fact that Examiner Bui tentatively deemed the proposed amendment to define over the prior art, and in the presumed absence of more pertinent prior art, it is sincerely believed that the claims as now presented clearly define patentable subject matter; and, a formal Notice of Allowance based thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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